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## ABSTRACT

The present invention provides method of screening for compounds for effectiveness in treating or preventing a viral infection including a method comprising administering the compound to a cell containing a cellular gene or a homolog thereof, and functionally encoding a gene product necessary for reproduction of the virus in the cell but not necessary for survival of the cell and detecting the level and/or activity of the gene product produced, a decrease or elimination of the gene product and/or gene product activity indicating a compound effective for treating or preventing the viral infection.

D<sup>3</sup>